

WESSEX WEEKLY

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www.wessexweb.org.uk -3265 'hits' so far!



What's the difference between a biscuit and a reindeer ?



'Autumn leaves' by Alice Johnstone in 30

This week:

Christmas menu changes, PTA Christmas Fair, dates for your diary (including Christmas Productions) and much more.....

SOLAR PANEL ECO TICKER:
3552KWh of Electricity Produced
2024Kg of Carbon Dioxide saved



From the Head's Chair



The build up to Christmas is certainly upon us and I thoroughly enjoyed my first sneak preview of our Lower School nativity performance today as they had a dress rehearsal in front of an audience of Y3, Nursery and Lowbrook children. It looks like a fantastic show with lots of songs, dances and movement – I won't say any more to spoil it, but do look forward to welcoming parents, friends and other guests to the big show(s) next week.

Many of your children have enjoyed more of our 'Master Classes' this week and hopefully have come home to tell you all about them with great enthusiasm. Our Master Classes provide us with the chance to match children with particular strengths to members of staff with equal strengths and spend quality time being challenged in a variety of ways. This is a great way to support and stretch our most able children in different aspects of our curriculum and is an initiative that is pretty unique to Wessex. This week, children have taken part in master classes for Gymnastics & Dance, English, Science and problem solving. I hope to be able to share more and show you some pictures on the website and noticeboard soon, and a display showing what and how the children have been learning will soon go up in the corridor in Upper School, so next time you pop in, have a look. Thank you to Miss Oldfield, Miss Razeghi, Mrs Dore and Mrs Maskell for organising our fantastic master classes this week. Other Christmas preparations are also well under way. We are looking forward to the Nursery's nativity performances, Carols around the Climbing Frame and Carols around the tree at Cox Green. These are all traditional and popular events and I look forward to support from all our children and their families. The dates and times of all the events are in this newsletter (including a couple of timing tweaks) so please check them carefully and put them in your diary. See you there.

I have this week become aware of a new craze being followed by some of our children. Some of our older children are wearing coloured plastic wrist bands and I have made it very clear that this is not appropriate. It was brought to my attention several weeks ago that children of secondary school age were wearing and using these bands and I hoped it wouldn't filter down to our children. The nature of the bands is totally inappropriate for children in a primary school and will be confiscated on sight. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please don't hesitate to get in touch. I thank you for your support.

Finally, I would like to thank 6R for their wonderful class assembly this week, which had a distinctly Shakespearean theme. The children have been learning about Shakespeare and in particular the play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. They gave us facts, performed a play, sang a Shakespeare rap and recited poetry. The assembly was enjoyed by children and parents alike and really showed how their learning had been brought to life. Well done 6R and thank you to Miss Razeghi – I really enjoyed it!

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Many Happy Returns to Mrs Vee, who celebrates a very important birthday this weekend!

Wessex PTA Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair on **Saturday 12th December** is fast approaching and the PTA would like to thank everyone who has returned raffle ticket monies so far. The First Prize is **£100** - *don't miss out on a chance to win - return yours now!* Thank you too for the **bottle donations** for the tombola that have already come in, however, we really do need more to ensure a great Tombola on the day. We also need some **bottle bags** - if you have any spare please bring in to the school office. We are also looking for donations of **cakes** (please bring on the day). Also a note to remind you of the **Fancy Dress Competition** - there is no theme and we are looking forward to seeing your creations! Finally - are there **any parents that work for Sainsbury's, Tesco's, Asda or any other supermarket?** We need your help! Please leave your name and contact number with the school office and a member of the PTA will give you a ring! Many thanks - your support is greatly appreciated and goes a long way in ensuring the enjoyment and success of our fund raising events!

Menu Changes for w/c 14th December

Because of the Christmas lunch, the menu for that week will be changed to the following:

Monday 14th - as per menu card

Tuesday 15th - Christmas lunch

Wednesday 16th - Fish and chips or Sweet and sour noodles

Thursday 17th - as per menu card

Friday 18th - Beef and sweetcorn pizza or Carrot and pesto bake.



Clubs

Multisports Club (Friday) will run on the last day of term from 2pm - 3pm, not from 3.20pm!

Breakfast Club

Forms for the spring term are now available from the letter tree in Reception. Remember that we accept Busy Bees and Accor childcare vouchers for our Breakfast Club. More information is available from the school office.

Vacancy!

Teaching Assistant required to join our team in January 2010. For more information or to pick up an application pack, contact the school office. Closing date for applications 11th December.

Church of the Good Shepherd

We are having a Christingle Service at FLAP on **Thursday 17th December** at 3.30. Just come along for squash and cake. We will be making the Christingles and having a short service. More details available from Karen Higgins (mum of Jack in 5C).

TALKING HOMEWORK

Why don't more of our children have a hot school dinner? How could we encourage more of them to try it?

THINKING SKILLS CHALLENGE

Use this sequence of letters 'WITGPT' to start 6 words that make up a sentence (for example: where is the green pet tarantula).

Y6 Residential Trip

Second payments of £75 are required asap please! A letter will be sent next week regarding final payments.



Calling all Nursery Parents....

Please be aware of the following calendar dates and changes to Nursery 'activities'.

- The times of the Nativity Performance on 7th **December** have been changed and will now be 9.45 am and 2.30pm
- There will be **no lunch club** on the day of the Nursery parties (**14th and 15th December**) so they will be required to attend 9.00 - 12am or 12.15 - 3.15pm only.
- Please can we ask for donations of old white and coloured tights (green /red) for us to use for the Nativity as well as men's stripy/checked shirts.

If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the Nursery staff. Thank you.

IMPORTANT - Keeping Your Children Safe

You may have read or heard about the new safeguarding regulations that Ofsted are being particularly hot on! We need to continue to be extra vigilant when allowing visitors in to school. It is extremely important that parents and any other visitors sign in at the school office and wear a Visitor Badge – *even if visiting for just a few minutes!*

It is also even more important that parents sign children in if they are late (i.e. arriving after 9am). ALL latecomers will be marked with an unauthorised absence unless they are signed in by a parent with a reason for the lateness.

Waitrose Community Matters

Each month, our local Waitrose in Maidenhead donates £1000 between 3 local good causes, chosen by the customers. We would love to be part of this scheme and would like to raise money for our ongoing Playground Makeover. Please consider nominating Wessex – forms are available from any Waitrose store.

Requests:

- 2ltr CLEAR plastic bottles (for our eco-greenhouse)
- Bamboo sticks of any length (ditto)
- Second hand school uniform (for a sale in the new year)

Please bring in any of the above items in to the school office – thank you!

Lost Property

As ever, we have an enormous amount of lost property. Please come and claim your ~~p~~ prize lost items before the end of term as EVERYTHING will be disposed of at 2pm on the last day of term. We have coats, PE kits, lots of sweatshirts and myriad other items – all of which will be thrown in the bin if not claimed. *You have been warned.....*

OOPS!

A reminder that this week, and every week, we will include a **very** obvious deliberate mistake somewhere in the newsletter. Please write your name/child's name, the 'gaff' and where it appeared in the newsletter and a contact number all on any piece of paper and pop it in the 'gaff' box. The first three correct entries pulled from the box will win either a free school dinner or a free session at breakfast club! This week's winners are Abigail Tinsey in Blue class, Thomas Newlyn in 4E and Jonathan Henderson in 4P who spotted an interesting spelling of our carol concerts!!

STICK THIS SHEET ON YOUR FRIDGE....

Some dates for your diary:

DATE	OCCASION	WHO?
7 th December	Nursery Nativity 9.45am / <u>2.30pm</u> NB - Change of time	Parents and Carers of children in Nursery
7 th December	Y4 Trip to the Living Rainforest	Children in Y4
8 th December	Lower School Christmas Production - 9.30am	Parents and carers ONLY
9 th December	Lower School Christmas Production - 9.30am	Parents and toddlers
10 th December	Lower School Christmas Production - 9.30am	Invited guests only
11 th December	Wessex Prayer Meeting, 9.00 - 9.30am in the Community Room	Parents and Carers
12 th December	PTA Christmas Fair 2 - 4pm	Everyone!
14 th December	No morning Nursery and No Nursery Lunch club!! PM Nursery Christmas Party	Nursery children
15 th December	No afternoon Nursery and No Nursery Lunch club!! AM Nursery Christmas Party	Nursery children
15 th December	School Christmas Lunch	Whole school
16 th December	Carols Around the Tree (Cox Green) 6pm	Everyone!!
17 th December	Wessex Carol Concert 5pm NB - Change of time	Everyone!!
18 th December	End of Term - 2pm	Everyone!!

You can't dunk a reindeer in your tea!



WESSEX 'ECO' WEEKLY

In support of our sustainability and re-cycling policies, we plan to reduce our paper copies of the Wessex Weekly after Christmas. Editions will still be available electronically and reliably via the school website (www.wessexweb.org.uk) or our electronic 'Parent-mail' facility, which you can sign up for below.

By reducing the number of paper copies we send out each week, we can easily save time, money and paper....enabling us to invest more effectively in your child's education. At the same time, we help the environment and make a contribution towards the reduction of our carbon footprint.

The school council has told us that your children feel this is very important. Therefore, along with other initiatives in school, such as turning off lights, closing doors, re-cycling paper and composting tea-bags from the staff room, we are helping to teach your children how to be better citizens for the future.



WE WILL REPEAT THIS MESSAGE



If you are able to access our weekly newsletter electronically and help us to reduce our impact on the environment, brilliant!

If you require a paper copy each week, please complete the slip below, return it to the school office by the end of term and we will ensure you receive a copy. **We will send a single copy home to families with more than one child with the YOUNGEST SIBLING** (as they seem to have their school bags checked more reliably!) Spare copies will still be available each week in the 'letter tree' outside the main office each Friday. Thank you.



Wessex 'Eco-Weekly'



Please send a paper copy of the newsletter home with our youngest child.

Youngest Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

Please e-mail me a copy of the school newsletter (and other information).

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

E-mail address: _____ Tel: _____